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THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" கிராமவாசிகள் தங்களுடைய பங்கையும் செலுத்தவேண்டும். அவர்களுடைய ஒத்துழைப்புடன்தான் இந்தத் திட்டங்கள் நிறைவேற்றப்பட்டு வருகின்றன. 28 கிராமங்களை எடுத்துக் கொண்டோம். 23 கிராமங்களில் வேலை பூர்த்தியாகிவிட்டது. இன்னும் 5 கிராமங்களைப் பொறுத்த வரையில் தான் பில் இன்னும் கொடுக்கப்படவில்லை."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" On a point of order, Sir, கனம் ராமசாமி படையாச்சி அவர்கள் டிரஷரி பெஞ்சியில் உட்காராமல் பின் பெஞ்சியில் மறைந்துகொண்டு ஏன் உட்கார்ந்திருக்கிறார்கள்? "

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" கேள்வி நேரத்தில் மாத்திரம்தான் நான் அப்படி மறைந்து கொண்டு உட்கார்ந்திருப்பேன். அது முடிந்தவுடன் டிரஷரி பெஞ்சுக்கு வந்துவிடுவேன்." (சிரிப்பு.)

Exemption of dried fish from sales tax

* 1690 *Q.*—SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any representation in 1955 requesting exemption of dried fish from sales tax; and

(*b*) whether any action has been taken thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" (*a*) Yes.

" (*b*) The Government see no grounds for exempting sales of dry fish from sales tax."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" Since dried fish dealers are also petty merchants and dried fish may also be classed as ' perishable articles ', will the Government consider the question of giving exemption to dried fish from sales tax? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I am afraid the hon. Member has no personal knowledge of dried fish. Dried fish is a dehydrated thing and it is not perishable. Fresh fish is already exempted from sales tax."

SRI O. KORAN :—" In Malabar district, there are two varieties of dried fish. One variety is easily perishable. So, will the Government consider the question of giving exemption to this variety of dried fish which is easily perishable? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" That is a point worth pursuing, and I will try to pursue it."

SRI S. DAIVASIGAMONEY :—" Of all foodstuffs, dried fish is the cheapest and is consumed most by the lower class people. In view of that, will the Government see that sales tax is not levied on dried fish? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The Government have been exempting certain articles from sales tax every year. This year the quota has been exhausted. "(Laughter.)

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SRI A. RAMASAMY TEVAR :—" Arising from the answer given by the Hon. Minister, may I know whether the Hon. Minister has got such experience as to discriminate between perishable dried fish and non-perishable dried fish? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Yes, Sir. It can be discriminated."

DR. K. B. MENON :—" I believe, Sir, that dried fish is treated as ' perishable ' by the railways and there would be obvious contradiction if the Government do not exempt it from sales tax and treat it as non-perishable? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Sir, perishability is one of the tests and not the sole test."

SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" As one who wants fish if the meal is to be sumptuous and who is a fish eater, I may inform the Government that fish like *ayilai* and *mathi* and such kinds of fish are easily perishable and if they are not consumed within two months after they are prepared, they will begin to give bad odour, and become distasteful for eating. In view of these facts, may I know whether the Government will exempt dried fish also from sales tax? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I have already answered in reply to a question by another hon. Member that the question of giving exemption with reference to a particular variety of dried fish will be examined by the Government."

SRI S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" In reply to a question, the Hon. Minister said that the quota for the year with reference to giving exemption to certain articles from sales tax is over. May I know whether exemption from sales tax is given on the basis of the quality of the articler or on the basis of a quota with reference to giving exemption from sales tax to certain articles for each year? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Such answers should not be literally taken."

SRI V. R. NAGARAJAN :—" May I know whether dried fish perish as soon as they are eaten or whether they perish before they are eaten? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I know they certainly perish within the stomach."

SRI V. R. KRISHNA AYYAR :—" The Hon. Minister has given an assurance that he will pursue the matter. May I know whether he will pursue the dried fish dealers or pursue the question of exemption of dried fish from sales tax? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Both should be pursued, the dealers for the sales tax and the question of dried fish with reference to its exemption from sales tax."

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SRI C. H. KANARAN :—" Lakhs and lakhs of people live on fish catches. On account of lack of transport facilities, lot of hardship is caused to fish trade. If dried fish is exempted from sales tax, it will increase the fish trade and benefit the poor fishermen. In view of these facts, may I know whether the Government will consider the question of exempting dried fish from sales tax? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" I do not fully accept the premises put forth by the hon. Member. There is no absolute guarantee that the benefit which will arise out of giving exemption to dried fish from sales tax will go to the poor fishermen. It may mostly go to the benefit of traders."

Industrial dispute in Brindavan Estates, Coonoor

* 1691 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. 9-20 a.m.
the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any conciliation was held by the labour officer in the dispute between the workers and the management of Brindavan Estates, Coonoor, during 1954; and

(*b*) what action was taken by the Government on the report of the conciliation officer?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Government have referred the dispute to the Industrial Tribunal, Coimbatore, for adjudication."

* 1692 *Q.*—MR. SPEAKER :—" This question will be taken up tomorrow."

Industrial Tribunal for Plantations

* 1693 *Q.*—SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Special Industrial Tribunal for Plantations has completed its enquiry and given the award; and

(*b*) if so, when?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) No, Sir.

" (*b*) Does not arise."

SRI M. KALYANASUNDARAM :—" விசேஷ தொழில் கோர்ட்டு எப்பொழுது ஆரம்பிக்கப்பட்டது? எவ்வளவு காலமாக வேலை நடந்து வருகிறது? எப்பொழுது விசாரணை முடியும் என்று எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகிறது?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" 24-3-1955-ந் தேதிய உத்தரவுப்படி 'ஸ்பெஷல் இண்டஸ்ட்ரியல் ட்ரிபியூனல்' தொடங்கப்பட்டது. வேலை இன்னும் முடியவில்லை. சீக்கிரம் முடிந்துவிடும் என்று எதிர்பார்க்கப்படுகிறது. புதிய ஜட்ஜுகூட போடப்பட்டிருக்கிறார்."